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Police Science Book Reviews

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ter estimates of the main parameters measured. Information such as the source of fillers, and the mixtures used in various types of paper would be very valuable in selecting future samples for analysis, and in interpreting the results. Since, in many cases, some sample may be expendable, work has been undertaken to study radiochemical procedures which can be used to remove the usually large sodium-24 activity from irradiated sample of paper. If this is done, many other elements should become available for examination. (WEK)

Obliterations, Alterations, and Related Document Problems—Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt, Journal of Forensic Sciences 16(3): 331-342 (July 1971). There are no ready answers to many of the document examiner's problems with obliterations, alterations, and related questions. Experience is an essential part of these examinations but must be coupled with a persistent application of a variety of techniques, including infrared absorption and luminescence and ultraviolet fluorescence, if the true facts are to be established from the fragmentary evidence remaining on such disputed documents. (WEK)

An Approach to Automated Drug Identification—Donna L. Shirley, Journal of Forensic Sciences 16(3): 359-375 (July 1971). An approach selected for initial hardware development and critical technology testing involved: (1) wet chemical sample preparation, (2) gas chromatographic separation, presumptive identification, and quantitation of drugs, (3) infrared spectrophotometric identification of drugs, and (4) computer control and data analysis. (WEK)


Distinction Between Antemortem and Postmortem Wounds: A Study of Elastic Fibers in Human Skin—Abdullah Fatteh, Journal of Forensic Sciences 16(3): 393-396 (July 1971). A study of antemortem and postmortem human skin wounds of various ages was made. The sections of the wounds stained by Hart's modification of Weigert's elastic tissue stain were studied to note possible differences in the elastic fibers in the antemortem and postmortem wounds. However, this study revealed that there were no differences in the nature and distribution of the elastic fibers in the dermis of antemortem and postmortem human skin wounds. Therefore, in medicolegal practice, the appearances of the elastic fibers in the dermis should not be relied upon in differentiating antemortem skin wounds from postmortem wounds. (WEK)
book is “to provide an introductory step toward the establishment of a common meeting ground for police and computer technologist alike”. In an attempt to fulfill this perceived need, the book was planned with two major objectives: (1) “To develop a conceptual design of an automated police information system that will support more effective police decision making and (2) to reduce the existing communications gap between police personnel and computers.”

In the 338 pages, utilizing over 70 diagrams and illustrations, the authors have admirably succeeded in accomplishing what they proposed to do. They have taken advantage of part of a comprehensive research effort conducted through a unique relationship of a major university, a private computer manufacturer, and representative agencies of federal and local government to generate and disseminate much needed information to the practical and academic sectors.

The book is divided into three parts: (although Part III is not indicated in the Table of Contents) “Part I, The Police System; Part II, Automated Police Information Systems; and Part III, Systems: Hangups, Payoffs, and Concluding Remarks”. In addition, it has a detailed appendix, a comprehensive bibliography, and well written Glossary of Terms following Chapters 1 and 2.

Chapter 1, begins with a general introduction of both topic and text to the reader. The remainder of Part I consists of three chapters that are of an immediate concern to the design of all police information systems or (a) computer-based systems, (b) systems approach, and (c) the police system.

Part II contains the analysis and design of an automated police information system. It begins with Chapter 5 describing intergovernmental information interfaces and an existing police information system. Drawing primarily from previous chapters in Part I, Chapter 6 presents a proposed automated information system for a municipal police department.

Part III begins with Chapter 7 which provides a general overview of the problems and concerns inherent in the design and implementation of an automatic data processing system in a medium-sized police department. It concludes with a comprehensive appendix pertaining to information flow analysis which could nearly be copied verbatim and implemented by a medium-sized police department.

During the last decade, hundreds of automated information systems and studies dealing with criminal justice operations have been conceptualized, started, or implemented. For at least this long, many contemporary law enforcement practitioners have been perplexed, if not completely confused about the growing preoccupation with computer-based information systems. Those more knowledgeable have had to receive specialized training under the auspices of the larger computer manufacturing firms. The theme underlying such studies principally designed for business and industry has been to adapt not adopt. The book should be a welcomed contribution to the field.

Automated Police Information Systems is devoted to the past and present technology of automation as it applies to the field of criminal justice in general and police information systems in particular. The design of the text is amazingly inductive as it progressively permits the reader to understand a sub-system, than a (whole) system and enables him to reason from particulars to generalizations.

It has academic merit relevant to more recent theory of law enforcement study where police, prosecution, court and correctional agencies and their activities are identified as sub-systems both interrelated and dependent upon each within the Criminal Justice System.

This book should be a valuable addition to any police department library, as well as a basic text for most police information systems courses at institutions of higher learning.

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To Walk the Streets Safely was written for the average citizen “to mobilize public support for the adoption of a relatively simple idea: that if we apply to our criminal justice system—and particularly to the role of policemen in deterring and apprehending criminals—many of the new, advanced scientific and technical developments already widely in use in our military, space exploration, and industrial systems, we can substantially
reduce the problems caused by predatory criminal behavior."

Congressman Scheuer examines our criminal justice system—with emphasis on the role of the police—and suggests many ways in which modern science and technology can be applied to the system.

The author first explores the need for adaptation of hardware currently available and utilized in the space field, business, and industry, to the improvement of police operations. He emphasizes the critical need for improved rapid communications networks. "... Until police know about a particular crime they can do nothing. ... The faster they know about it, the faster they can act and the better the chance of aiding the victim; thwarting or interrupting the crime, or at least catching the criminal."

Once the communication gap has been bridged, transportation to the scene becomes critical. A variety of vehicles designed to meet the complex demands of the police task are essential. He portrays the conventional patrol car as "a jalopy in the Jet Age" and suggests that through research and experimentation, vehicles suited to varied purposes—from scooters to bullet proof riot cars to helicopters—can be made operational and function as valuable aids to law enforcement. Mr. Scheuer further states that the vehicles need to be properly equipped for the task. Such things as scriptwriters to record messages while the officer is away from the vehicle; voice recording devices to assure that procedures have been properly followed; and devices to transmit fingerprints from the field unit to the laboratory for rapid comparison with those of wanted persons are but a few of the improvements available.

Non-lethal weapons, dye tracers, effective locks, and alarm systems are seen as vitally necessary hardware, but these must be supplemented by individual effort on the part of each citizen to protect his own property and to support community programs and governmental efforts designed to improve crime prevention and control.

The author acknowledges the fact that modern techniques and equipment are only as good as the men using them. Therefore, "in order to select the best men for police work, and to prepare them with the insights and skills needed to use sophisticated techniques and equipment and to exercise complex insights and judgments, we must first develop a sound theoretical model of what a policeman's role should be, and what kind of men should fill it." We do not yet have this model. The tasks that a police officer must perform are varied and often require seemingly opposite characteristics. "It is not just the diversity of challenges but the contradictory and undefined nature of the policeman's role which is perplexing. ... He is expected to be tough, courageous, resourceful, strong, disciplined, self controlled, relaxed, easy-going, sympathetic, sensitive, good-humored, helpful, and wise."

Every effort must be made to define the policeman's role; to select and train the type of men necessary to fill this role; and to provide them with the proper tools to do the job. Laws need to be re-examined and those which are either unnecessary or unenforceable should be repealed.

The entire court system needs to be re-evaluated and streamlined. There is little value in improving detection and arrest procedures, if the arrestee cannot be processed through the court system. Computerized systems should be developed and utilized to the fullest degree possible. "The computer is at the very least a superbly efficient record-keeping instrument; but information storage is only one of the many services it can provide. Among other things, it can also monitor all functions of the court system and, by compiling statistical profiles, flow charts and the like, can point up needs, weaknesses, overloads, and waste anywhere along the line. ... It can verify crime trends and the relationship between legal processes and the rise or fall of crime rates."

Additionally, Mr. Scheuer sees the need for the development of a new approach to corrections, a truly rehabilitative one rather than the largely punitive system we now have.

And finally, the author declares that "New Spirit" is required. "Community action by groups of concerned citizens, may be able to assist local government in a number of ways by providing community support and stimulating effective action." Citizens must take an active part in law enforcement by getting involved—at least to the point where crimes and/or suspicious circumstances are reported to police. Failure to do so sets the stage for criminal success.

"Technology exists to help people help each other. ... We are our brother's keepers. ... At the very least, we must be willing to get involved. For if our spirit of personal involvement is stifled by our apathy, no amount of sophisticated hardware or computerized systems will make a difference. In the final analysis, it is the individual who can make the difference. ... What you will do will
depend on the nature and extent of your own commitment, imagination, and leadership. In the long run the answer will lie in your hands.”

The reviewer found the last chapter of Mr. Scheuer’s book to be especially informative in regard to the research (or lack of it) being carried on by governmental agencies. He attempts to present the view that the National Institute for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, the research oriented arm of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, is one answer to the pitiful paucity of meaningful research in the criminal justice field. He argues strongly that it is at least a partial answer.

Congressman James Scheuer’s examination of crime in America, including some of its causes, plus a partial solution to assist in crime control is thoughtful, stimulating and obviously carefully prepared and researched. It is as relevant to today’s social change in America as Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle was to his age of badly needed reform.

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The Book of the Month Club selection, January, 1971, was a “cop book” entitled The New Centurions, and written by Sergeant Joe Wambaugh, L.A.P.D. It is a passable first novel, of “war story” genre, done in “creative writing class” style, describing many experiences common to all police. The specific portrait of the Los Angeles Policemen is painted with enough pimples, wrinkles, and warts to make “off the pig” people smirk, and with enough heroic grandeur and nobility to make the “law and order” crowd nod smugly. (Wambaugh’s attention to the pimples, wrinkles, and warts resulted in a request by Chief Davis to the publisher for deletions and changes, and a departmental reprimand to Sgt. Wambaugh for his failure to obtain a prior agency Nihil Obstat.)

There is enough blood and guts, horror stories, and spice to guarantee ample book sales, and the purchase of movie rights attests to the book’s commercial value. Although Wambaugh follows the off and on-duty lives and loves of three L.A.P.D. officers from police academy in 1960 to the Black revolt of 1965, the story line is only skin deep, and contains no serious look into police philosophy, organization, supervision, or leadership. It does, however, deal with the processes of socialization that makes (take your choice) calculating, cruel mercenaries in blue, or righteous and saintly guardians of all that is holy. Officers are shown as human beings seeking security, identity, companionship, and approval. They are depicted with a variety of strengths and weaknesses: dedicated, frustrated, fearless, weak, sensitive, ignorant, warm, bigoted, calm, arrogant, humble, confused, brutal, and capable.

Sgt. Wambaugh punctures the Myth of God-like Perfection self-bestowed upon L.A.P.D. and the book is a litany, not only about humane, compassionate, broadly educated and truly professional officers, but also about those who bend the law to maintain the status quo, insult ghetto people, warp arrests to meet undesired legal standards, lie on reports, perjure themselves on the witness stand, roust non-conformists, beat unarmed suspects, fall apart under stress, and who, as super freeloaders, continuously mooch and chisel whatever “goodies” are available. The Sergeant-Author is proud of the noble professionals, but he is continuously excusing police wrongdoing by reiterating that police are only human. (Such defensiveness, though, is a difficult thing to fault when so many of us have the same habit.)

All in all, easy reading, and a step in the right direction: increased vocational candor and some public admission about what really goes on within our police agencies. The book may serve as a good background reference to discussions about police attitudes and habits and is so recommended.

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The title of this little book may be considered to be deceptive. It does not deal with one thief; by the author’s admission, his hero is somewhat fictional, being a composite of more than one with whom he had contact during his days in the corrections field. It is not about thieves, at least not if we treat thieves as those guilty of theft. The author tells us at the outset that, to him, the thief is one who acquires the property of another by unlawful means. Thus, our hero-thief may be a
burglar bent on larceny, an embezzler, a forger, a robber, or just a plain old thief. A primer for thieves this is not. To be sure, there is much that is instructive, but the author is dealing with a sophisticated group of lawbreakers, those who commit various crimes almost for the sheer thrill of it, or the risk; these are criminals whose life style demands that their crimes be committed with a measure of style and grace. They are the ones, our author reminds us more than once, who make up the aristocracy of criminal society, the top drawer of the underworld.

The author writes exceedingly well and has put together a grand yarn. The book is entertaining, informative, and frightening in a way. I do not believe, however, that author Jackson is remotely interested in entertaining us, or instructing us, or, perhaps, even in frightening us. He has a message and is seeking to convey a sense of disgust and distaste for much of what passes as the American system of criminal justice. He is not altogether happy with the process by which one is brought to the bar of justice; he doesn’t seem to think very highly of many of those who carry the label of “counsellor” or “attorney at law”; he is concerned about the want of humanity in much of what passes as a “corrections” system; and, he is somewhat dismayed at the sheer disinterest and stupidity of vast numbers of us respecting the conditions which lead to criminal behavior and what we do to and with those who are given a mark of Cain for their misdeeds. He has devoted quite a bit of this volume to reporting of what transpires in prisons and other penal institutions. One would have to concede that these institutions may fairly be charged with making criminals—but not the one he’s writing about. There is a lame effort to blame society for this hero, but the indictment is wanting. Mr. Jackson is writing about one who needed no urging from any of us. He coldly and calculatedly determined to let the squares support him in a life style that was almost his without having to ask or work for it. No social injustice, no police brutality, no judicial insensitivity made him a criminal. Life appeared to be dull and disinteresting if one stayed within the sidelines and the end zone markers, to employ the fad of footballese; indulgence in his own definition of freedom and individuality, his own contempt for the squares and their way of life, and his own lust for the thrill of outwitting that other world were things which led him into his life outside the law. This is one point in this book when one must sense that the author is jealous of his hero, that he too would like to trade the respectability of his education and professional station for the thrill on the other side of the fence. One cannot help but feel the envy which the author tries to conceal as his book ends in a sort of “wild geese flying” type of setting. Sam—his hero—just is not that close to Robin Hood for me!

Any book that deals with a prison, and I am not sure that this one should have, is bound to include some data on intramural sex. Sam was not a part of this, we are told, and I really do not see the relevance of it to this book, but Mr. Jackson seems to regard it as important. He makes a much better case for Sam’s preoccupation with heterosexual relations, although introducing pimping and prostitution seems quite tangential to thievery.

There are some references to police improprieties—an understatement, to Sam and his Boswell—but they seem strangely out of place coming from one like Sam. Sam is a parasite, completely dependent upon his host, the stupid, credulous, gullible, believing, unsuspecting public. Other than the fact that Sam has not yet resigned from the human race, there is little that should give him standing to complain about the way the public and its agents and agencies treat him. He has no claim on anyone’s compassion. He knows precisely what he is doing, and he is doing what he is doing because he wants to do it. There’s no occasion for exaplation or rationalization. This man will take society for all he can, and then when he feels pinched he will complain that the cops are rough on him or that his attorney is a fraud or that prison is immoral or that his guards are corrupt. One must grant that there are evils and that many of them touch Sam, but somebody else has to complain. Sam is nigh on to estopped to contend that society is in error. At the very least he is in pari delicto!

If we take our childish dictum that two wrongs will not make a right, then we must recognize that there is a wrong that must be righted. This will make Sam a bit happier. But there is another wrong that needs righting to make society a little more comfortable too. The police and the courts and the prisons are surrogates for all of us who make up the public. They do for us that which we don’t do ourselves. That is as it should be in a civilized society. But there is the rub. Sam is not a part of our society. We cannot reform or rehabilitate him; he knows it and we know it. We would be better off if we dropped him in a deep hole and covered him up. But the fact that we are
civilized prevents us from doing such a patently self-serving thing. We applaud our compassion and sensitivity, turn the other cheek, and endure. It will be an awful world if we do not, and this is what Mr. Jackson really does for us. He gives us a clear picture of a burden we must bear, but we should not have to take criticism that is justified from one such as his hero. Most of society is trying harder than Sam to make this a livable world.

The Pennsylvania legislature recently decreed that one convicted of crime must pay his victim. Sam might find this offensive but maybe this will work to require a new chapter for A Thief's Primer. If Sam's life style cannot produce the goods to support that life style, then maybe his sociopathic personality can produce a more sociable behavior.

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This text book consists of eight hundred and seventy-one pages. It covers jurisprudence and toxicology with numerous illustrations and an appendix.

Part one on medical jurisprudence specifically deals with medico-legal problems and their implications which are pertinent to the Indian sub-continent. It begins with a comprehensive chapter on identification, including a thorough description of post-mortem examination, and describing the problems of decomposition and mutilation of the bodies which are often investigated in forensic work. The estimation of time of death, particularly in a hot and humid country like India, is a very important factor. There is a lack of experimental data regarding the estimation of time of death, although ten important points were referred by Dr. Parikh to ascertain this. The cases of hanging, drowning, and starvation are well illustrated. Deaths due to injuries, particularly those by axe, sickle, or stick, are very interesting medico-legal presentations. Then follows the section which presents the professional as well as legal aspects of divorce, sexual offense, criminal abortion and infanticide. Criminal abortion and infanticide which are offenses in India come under the sections of the Indian Penal Code.

One separate section is extensively devoted to forensic psychiatry which includes essential information on insanity relevant to the Lunacy Act. Here also, the Indian Evidence Act, Criminal Procedure Code, and the Indian Penal Code are given in detail. The various aspects of ethics, professional misconduct, negligence and insurance which affect the medical practitioners are discussed. At one point, regarding the registered medical man, the author mentions, "He is entitled to perform medico-legal autopsies." The question arises whether any medical doctor can do medico-legal autopsies, although no mention was made about the certified forensic pathologists who are qualified to carry out the forensic work.

Part two contains a large chapter on toxicology. It is quite a survey of India's indigenous poisonous plants and animal poisons (snakes and scorpions). Although insecticides are briefly mentioned, too little emphasis is placed on the poisonings encountered by the modern synthetic drugs which are commonly used in India.

The last part of the book is devoted to an appendix which contains average height and weight, data of body organs, and bone structures as found among the inhabitants of India. It also includes a table describing the signs and symptoms of various poisonings along with the average fatal dose and duration of the toxic manifestation. Treatment of these poisonings is also suggested.

The book suffers from two drawbacks. First, the quality of the illustrations is very poor. Unfortunately, the photographic illustrations, especially the drawings, are often mediocre in quality. Secondly the reader may be disturbed because of the lack of a bibliography. This is a deviation from the modern trends of writing a book.

This book, which is well written and well organized, is of particular value for medico-legal experts and practicing physicians but pathologists, especially those in training, will also gather knowledgable information. It is recommended as a valuable addition to any medical library.

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The failures of contemporary criminologists are attributed here to a lack of awareness of the full
dimensions of crime. While criminologists content themselves with the measurement of conventional crime, author Manuel Lopez-Rey sees socio-political forces as having created new boundary lines. He views today's crime sources as deriving from the increasing number of dissatisfied youth, the expanding gap between the privileged and the underprivileged, the community tolerance of political corruption, and the governmental sanctioning of political crimes. Theorizing that modern criminologists have been functioning on inadequate premises, the author seriously questions many of their established findings. One need not accept the astringent evaluation he makes of his colleagues in order to appreciate the intensity of the propositions he offers. Some collateral satisfaction can also be derived from this work by police, prosecutors, and corrections personnel who, for years, have suffered silently the arrogance of pseudo-scientific studies emanating from university criminological research centers.

The author mocks the efforts of criminology to style itself a natural science. He views as an absurdity the impressive array of techniques and instruments with which criminologists attempt to justify a particular theory through some illusory measurement. The energy he believes could better be devoted to determining within reasonable limits the "amount" of crime that a given society can stand without being seriously disturbed. He asserts that a reshuffling of enforcement personnel according to some managerial criteria is meaningless without recognizing the socio-political implications of crime.

The author is particularly pointed in his rejection of the medico-psychological theories that equate juvenile delinquency causes with the lack of certain physiological need-fulfillments. He sees the isolation of the juvenile from the criminal justice system as inflating a problem that could better be handled by the adult courts. Our welfare approach to juveniles committing criminal offenses suggests, he says, an unawareness of youth's ability to assume responsibility and sentimentalizes the role of youth. The problem is an inflated one, he concludes, and the research efforts of criminologists tend only to add to the vague concepts of delinquency they have already fostered.

The author ascribes the expansion of crime to a cycle beginning with the complexities of modern national development. This progress in turn demands greater penal protection, thereby increasing the number of criminal sanctions, hence enabling increased corruption, resulting in individual and collective insecurity and finally producing violent protest against the socio-economic system which has spawned the cycle. In this kind of design Lopez-Rey finds our penal system inept except as a holding device. Its failure is inevitable, he claims, so long as criminologists limit themselves to studying criminal deviance and behavioral problems. He sums up current criminological theories as an ensemble of conjectures that continue to rehash unwarranted formulations.

His presumption that researchers have failed to consider socio-political implications is open to some question inasmuch as this is generally implicit in any serious review of the crime problem. The author's long service with the United Nations social defense agencies and as well with university research in many major nations of the world have provided him with a perspective that perhaps entitles him to lofty generalizations. His call for emphasis on the crime rather than the criminal and his concern with social justice rather than speedy justice only point out priorities not alternatives. Notwithstanding the deft style of the author, his obvious credentials and the inherent truths that lie in many of his characterizations one must conclude that he is merely highlighting an hypothesis that is deserving of more attention. He has not discovered an unused pathway, invisible these many years to his colleagues.

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What can one say of a human being who has been known to one for almost four decades? What can be put on paper to tell others about him? Here was a living man, active, involved, experiencing. How can this be conveyed to others? And what is said will dimly disappear into the history of the past never again to be revived. Can one place on paper a vibrant living person—a unique individual within his own years of active life? Can one revive even a spark of what the man was and did?

I first met Robert H. Gault in 1935 as a graduate student at Northwestern University. There were five of us: Joseph Bobbitt, Margaret Letzer, Ralph Hinton, Harold Sharpe. Each one has gone his way. Each one carries with him the intimate memory of Robert H. Gault. Professor Gault was a gentleman of the old school. He maintained an inner dignity which was such an intimate part of him that it persisted throughout his life. Yet this dignity was not that of aloofness. He did not look down at the world. He was an intimate part of it. All of us felt his warmth and involvement. All of us felt that we could talk to him as an equal, as one who understands, is perceptive and kind and yet has a personal dignity as if belonging in the nobility of the royal courts of long past. He did not even change in his physical appearance. His appearance, action, warmth, and understanding remained perpetual until the end.

By no means was he rigid and set in his orientation to life and to his work. He had broad interdisciplinary interest. He devoted many years towards the development of the teletactor—a method of conveying the spoken word through touch to the deaf—with the active interest and support of humanists in the state and federal governments and with the help of many professionals especially, at that time, of Louis D. Goodfellow. For some fifty years he was editor of the Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, an interdisciplinary journal covering a broad area and involving many disciplines.

In 1961 at his fiftieth year as editor of the Journal he received singular honors and recognition from men in the fields of law, psychology, political science, sociology and other disciplines. He was the recipient at that time of a coveted Festschrift—an honor only a few men had received in their life. He received recognition in many other areas of endeavor such as in his work on the report of crime for the City of Chicago in 1915 and his plans for intellectual cooperation with Latin America and interchange of information through the U.N. His publications have been numerous and survive as important contributions to knowledge.

In 1907 he married Anne Lee. A few years after her death he married Mary Louise Woseczek in 1939. She and his nieces and nephews to whom he contributed much carry the memory of him in all their intimate relationships with him.

He was described when he entered college as a tall, lanky, red-headed, shy boy. From this beginning he hewed a long pathway. His contributions can best be stated in the words of Professor Andrew A. Bruce, professor of law at Northwestern University and a colleague of his, in these words: "Throughout his editorial career Robert H. Gault has realized inter-relationships of social and political sciences and of the sciences of law, and from the beginning has obtained the assistance and writing from men of prominence in the intellectual world. In this he has been pre-eminent."

G. K. YACORZYNski, PH.D.